

Gulf South Solar provides renewable energy products for the home and office

With summer just around the corner, energy bills across Louisiana and the gulf south are expected to rise dramatically as air conditioning units work overtime to meet our cooling needs. Reducing those utility bills is a major issue, and utilizing solar energy is one viable, cost-saving method for cooling the home in an environmentally sound way.

Based in Baton Rouge, Gulf South Solar was started in 2003 as a full service provider of renewable energy products and services for Louisiana and across the gulf south region. The company specializes in the distribution, design and installation of solar power systems for non-profit projects as well as residential and commercial.

Solar energy promotes financial savings on utility bills while having a back up power source in the event of an outage. In 2011, GSS installed solar systems across Louisiana which have produced enough electricity to completely power 50 homes or offset carbon emissions (roughly equivalent to consuming more than 40,400 gallons of gasoline per year).



Solar panels installed on a residence by Gulf South Solar

According to the Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Energy, financial incentives also carry over to the tax return, with Louisiana offering a 50 percent refundable residential tax credit on the first \$25,000 cost of solar installation; amounting to a \$12,500 cap per system. On top of that, the federal government offers an additional residential and commercial tax credit per system.

“As a solar power company, every project we undertake and implement makes a positive impact on the Louisiana environment,” said Jeff Shaw, President of Gulf South Solar. “We also have a detailed tracking system, where we can monitor many of the systems we install and generate figures that identify cost and energy savings for a given project. In 2003, there were no incentives or net metering in place, and people wanted solar for backup power for hurricanes and outages. Based on that need, I wrote the Louisiana net metering law in 2003 which allowed people to lower their electric bills by returning the excess power generated by their solar to the utility.”

Clients may choose from a wide array of solar projects, be it urban or rural. A project typically centers on a System Design Package, which includes a site analysis by a GSS solar engineer. The engineer takes measurements, checks for solar exposure, determines equipment locations and designs a specific, custom designed system that is tailored to meet the client’s energy needs. The engineer also provides a written report with photos, design specifications, costs and recommendations. From that point, the client and technician agree upon a plan that will adequately meet the structure’s needs and client’s pocketbook.



GSS installs a large number of hybrid systems which provide both net metering and battery backup for power outages. They have installed hundreds of systems ranging from 1 to 34 kilowatts, both residential and commercial. According to GSS, each kilowatt of solar (about 4 panels) installed can generate an average of 125 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. Since the panels are guaranteed for 25 years that can add up to a lot of savings over the lifetime of the system.

GSS is run by Jeff Shaw who is an NABCEP-certified professional, one of the first in Louisiana. NABCEP, the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, is the primary governing entity for solar heating installation certification.

For more information, contact Jeff Shaw, President of Gulf South Solar, at (225) 932-0035, or toll free at 1-800-763-0885.

